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Contact: Adam Clark, Monash Medical Centre (550 2354)

APRIL MEETING REPORT

Penny Scott, presently Government Publications Librarian at the State Library of Victoria, formerly Librarian at the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories, spoke to members at the meeting on April 27th about current issues in government publications. Changes to Australian Government Publications, now produced on microfiche from ABN, has reduced its effectiveness as a bibliographic tool and it needs to be supplemented by the Commonwealth Legislation Catalogue, produced by AGPS, for information about Commonwealth legislation. Victorian Government Publications however, recently revamped by staff at the State Library under Penny's direction, remains an important resource for information on State legislation and government departments.

Current difficulties in accessing government information were highlighted by Penny, and a number of factors were analyzed as contributing to these difficulties: the trend by governments to using commercial publishers who charge commercial prices for publications previously available free or at low cost; the trend to electronic publishing making access difficult for many library users; and cutbacks by many governments to library deposit schemes. The first issue is receiving attention from the ACLIS Government Publications Subcommittee which is lobbying government officials to reduce the cost of government publications. Penny urged that any medical librarians who use government publications should participate in this lobbying process. A suggestion was made that the trade unions, as voracious users of government publications, could be an effective ally.

These difficulties have led to increasing dependence on resource sharing and collection rationalization. The IFLA Round Table on Government Publications last year resolved that a major study of the government publication collections of Australian libraries was necessary. All libraries with major collections of government publications will be asked to evaluate their collection by conspectus which will provide a valuable insight into the nation's resources in this area.

This topical subject of collection evaluation, particularly with regard to the role evaluation plays in the development of collection development policies, will again be covered at the next meeting on July 11th, when Brian Howes, from the Riverina-Murray Institute of Higher Education, will give advice on how to formulate a collection development policy. In the meantime you might like to catch up with the book "Collection Development for Australian Libraries", coauthored by Brian and Gary Gorman and published last year. It is available from the Institute for \$45.

Thanks to Andrew Rooke for providing the meeting venue.

Report on our
Country Members Seminar
Thursday 25th May 1989 at Health Department Victoria

Scott Holmes, our inaugural Country Representative, admirably hosted this very successful Seminar. Thirty colleagues made the trek into town and, after a refreshing cuppa, listened to Joan Harris expound on her recent experiences of automating the Mental Health Services Library. We then split up into three groups and spent 25 minutes apiece watching demonstrations of the Inmagic, Microfusion, and Cairns library management systems. Scott hesitantly gave the representatives a "wind-up" signal to avoid taking up too much time. The lengthy lunchbreak, however, enabled members to peruse the computer systems in more detail, as well as supple the delights of the HDV Cafeteria.

The afternoon began with a short talk by Stephen Due on his experiences with Medline on CD-ROM before we split up into our groups for practical demonstrations in the John Lindell Library by Bill Sinclair. Scott once again kept time with his "wind-up" signals. Following a quick afternoon tea, which included more opportunities to see the library computer systems, Scott led an open discussion/information-giving forum which comprised points on PEARL Microfiche, CMLO PALS, and VICGRATIS, to name a few.

The day was voted a great success and participants were eagerly looking forward to the next one. As the Health Libraries Section Annual General Meeting and Christmas Party is being planned for the evening of Friday 1st December, we decided to hold the next Seminar on that day also. Suggestions of topics are welcomed and should be sent to Scott Holmes at Bendigo Base Hospital.

COMINGS AND GOINGS ...

Val Strantzen is now the Librarian at the Royal Talbot Campus Library at the Austin Hospital, joining Moira Brown who is the Library Technician, they have replaced the previous team of Angela Daley and Janice Ryan. Val's previous position at the PANCH Nursing Library has been taken by Judy Czuchnowski.

Veronica Delafosse, Royal Southern Memorial Hospital, will be going on Maternity leave in July. Our best wishes go with Veronica!

Betty Trease, who previously was working part-time at the Royal Melbourne Hospital Nursing Library, is now the permanent full-time Librarian. Sia Loukopoulos is the new Library Technician at Box Hill Hospital.

LIBRARY STATISTICS

All section members are encouraged to send in their Library's cumulative statistics on the standardised form. These can be sent to Jenny Treller, Alfred Hospital Health Sciences Library (ph. 520 2547). Jenny also has copies of the standardised form for any libraries not currently submitting their statistics.

The Health Libraries Section congratulates Anne Harrison on the award of a Fellowship of the A.L.I.A. This honour is in recognition of a distinguished career dedicated to the promotion and development of a high standard of medical librarianship.

Her early entry into medical librarianship, as librarian in charge of Brownless Library, University of Melbourne, enabled her to develop an expertise which was highly regarded by her colleagues, and by educators in the health sciences. Her willingness and ability to share this expertise enabled her to influence significantly the development of medical libraries throughout Australia.

The establishment of CMLO in 1953 was a pioneering venture in library co-operation. As Honorary Secretary for 30 years, Anne gave dedicated service to its growth and functions.

As a clearinghouse and exchange service, it made invaluable contributions to the collections of newly established medical libraries, both hospital and academic.

The union list, started in 1954/55, preceded NUCOM by nearly 10 years. This provided a basis for the indispensable inter-library loan network, and co-operative tradition which exist today.

Through CMLO, the resources of Brownless library, and the expertise of its staff, were made available to the smaller medical libraries, thus assisting them to provide high standards of reference service and document delivery.

Anne's contribution to the development of the Australian MEDLINE network has been described as "more outstanding than that of any individual not actively employed in its operation." Anne's lobbying for, and promotion of the service gained support from the medical community, and ensured its eventual availability throughout a national network.

Anne also played an active role in advancing the profession of librarianship. From the early 1950's, she encouraged colleagues to follow her example in obtaining professional qualifications.

In the early 1970's, she was appointed co-convenor of the National Steering Committee for the formation of an Australian Medical Librarians' Group. She subsequently played a pivotal role in lobbying the various state-based Groups to become formally affiliated with the L.A.A.

As a librarian representative or consultant of various committees, she also promoted the cause of libraries in the wider community. Significant among these was her work as a member of the Consultative Committee on Hospital Libraries to the Victorian Health Commission.

This committee was instrumental in the establishment of professionally supervised libraries in country and smaller metropolitan hospitals throughout Victoria, and served as a precedent for medical library development in other states.

Many libraries were established in hospitals and new medical schools during the 1960's and 1970's. Librarians new to the medical field benefited from Anne's "sane and mature" advice, which she gave freely and generously.

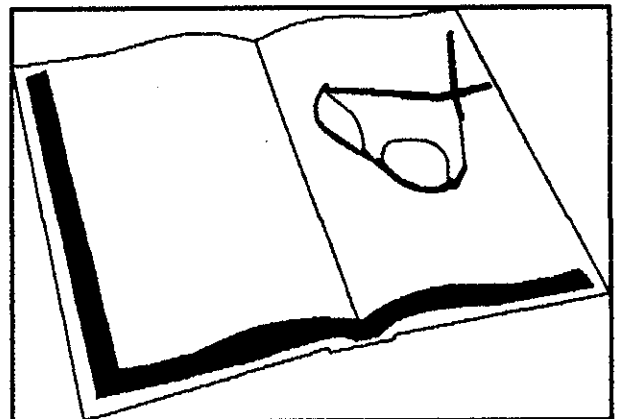
Anne Harrison's foresight, skill and dedication have been instrumental in promoting a high quality of librarianship, and significant benefits to the practice of her profession. The award of a Fellowship is a fitting regard.

Sandra Russell,
St.Vincent's Hospital.

Enid Meldrum,
Alfred Hospital.

15th May 1989.

**READING
CORNER**



Quality Assurance

Fredenburg AM. Quality assurance: establishing a program for special libraries. Special Libraries 79(4), Fall 1988, p.277-284.

Gives details of the quality assurance program used at the Kubie Medical Library in Baltimore, MD. In particular the author discusses record keeping, the role of staff in a program, and integration of the library's program with that of the hospital.

Library Automation

Green K. Nonlibrary packages for housekeeping routines. Computers in libraries 9(1), Jan 1989, p.4-11.

Discusses some of the applications for which nonspecific software (wordprocessors, databases, communications) can be used such as the production of current awareness bulletins and holding lists, interlibrary loans, serials subscriptions and compilation of library statistics.